

Amendments To The Specification:

Please amend the Specification on pg. 28 as Follows:

Turning to FIGS. 9, 10A and 10B, a fifth preferred embodiment of a plurality of stretchable segments 730 defining a stretchable region 732 is shown. The stretchable segments 730 are arranged in peripherally-oriented cells 734, wherein adjacent stretchable segments 730 are connected by peripheral connector elements 736. Thus, each stretchable segment 730 defines an opening or cell 32. In their unstretched shape, each stretchable element 730a is made up of a pair of longitudinal-oriented “wings” 738a. Each wing 738a includes first and second longitudinal elements 740, 742 that extend longitudinally from adjacent peripheral connector elements 736 to a looped end 744. The longitudinal elements 740, 742 preferably extend generally parallel to one another, for example, in an undulated pattern along the longitudinal axis, although alternatively, the longitudinal elements 740, 742 may be substantially straight. In FIG. 9, the undulating pattern of the longitudinal element has three turns. Stretchable elements 730 adjacent to one another in adjacent cells along the longitudinal axis 718 are preferably connected by their looped ends 744, as shown. Stretchable elements 730 which are circumferentially adjacent are connected by a peripheral connector element 736. As shown in FIG. 9, the plurality of stretchable elements 730 are positioned so that they form a plurality of quartets of stretchable elements 730. One of the plurality of quartets in FIG. 9 is indicated by a box. Note that a second opening or cell 32a is defined by two peripheral connector elements 736 and four longitudinal elements, one longitudinal element from each of the stretchable elements 730 forming the quartet. As shown in FIG. 9, the second opening or cell 32a has a larger size or larger area than the opening or cell 32 defined by the stretchable element when the stent is in its unstretched condition.

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